

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01
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FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
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AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 1169

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: SOPN, PFOR, UR, US
SUBJECT: SOVIET TREATMENT OF U.S. CORRESPONDENTS

REF : (A) MOSCOW 1083, (B) MOSCOW 1127, (C) 76 MOSCOW 10167,
(D) 76 MOSCOW 9685

1. WORDING OF KHAZOV DEMARCHE ON KRIMSKY (REPORTED REFTEL A)
COUPLED WITH OFFICIALLY-INSPIRED REBUFF GIVEN NEW YORK TIMES
CORRESPONDENT CHRISTOPHER WREN JANUARY 25 RAISES
DISTURBING POSSIBILITY THAT NEW CAMPAIGN AGAINST AMERICAN
JOURNALISTS A LA LAST YEAR'S LITERATURNAYA GAZETA SERIES
MAY BE IN WORKS. PARTICULARLY NOTEWORTHY IS FACT THAT TWO
JOURNALISTS SO FAR AFFECTED ARE REMAINING MEMBERS OF TRIO
ATTACKED BY LITGAZ IN 1976.

2. EMBASSY NOTES THAT KHAZOV IN HIS ORAL STATEMENT JANUARY 24
REFERS TO EARLIER ACCUSATIONS AGAINST KRIMSKY AND FLATLY STATES
THAT "CONCRETE FACTS HAVE BEEN PRINTED IN THE SOVIET PRESS"
(I.E. LITGAZ) AND THAT THIS ALONG SHOULD HAVE BEEN
SUFFICIENT "TO EXPECT THAT AFTER THIS HE BE RECALLED."
WHAT MFA PRESS DEPARTMENT TREATED LAST YEAR AS NONE OF ITS
BUSINESS (REFTELS C AND D) AND AS SIMPLE MANIFESTATIONS OF
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"FREE" SOVIET PRESS NOW SEEMS TO HAVE BEEN TRANSMOGRIFIED
INTO INCONTROVERTABLE LEGAL EVIDENCE.

3. WREN'S EXPERIENCE A DAY LATER ALSO INDICATED THAT OLD LITGAZ
ARTICLES ARE TAKING ON NEW MEANING. HE HAD EARLIER CALLED
THE SOVIET MINISTRY OF RAILROADS SEEKING AN INTERVIEW AND
HAD BEEN TOLD THAT HIS REQUEST WOULD BE PROCESSED AND THAT

A FAVORABLE REPLY COULD BE EXPECTED. HOWEVER, ON THE AFTERNOON OF JANUARY 25, WREN WAS INFORMED BY THE MINISTRY THAT THE MFA PRESS DEPARTMENT, UPON BEING CONSULTED, HAD ADVISED THE RAILROAD PEOPLE OF THE LITGAZ PIECES LAST YEAR WHICH ACCUSED WREN OF BEING A SPY. IN VIEW OF THIS, THE MINISTRY OF RAILROADS TOLD WREN, IT WOULD NOT BE POSSIBLE TO RECEIVE HIM.

4. WREN ALSO PASSED ON HIS IMPRESSION, GLEANED FROM VARIOUS SOURCES, THAT LITGAZ MAY BE CRANKING UP FOR ANOTHER ATTACK ON THE U.S. PRESS. WHETHER THIS WOULD BE AN ACROSS-THE-BOARD BROADSIDE OR AN ATTEMPT TO FINISH OFF KRIMSKY AND WREN (AL FRIENDLY HAVING DEPARTED THESE SHORES LAST SUMMER) WAS NOT STATED. NEEDLESS TO SAY, LITGAZ EDITOR CHAKOVSKIY MAY HAVE, IN ADDITION TO HIS USUAL IDEOLOGICAL MOTIVATIONS, A MORE PERSONAL REASON FOR RESUMING THE ATTACK IN VIEW OF HIS VISA REFUSAL EARLIER IN JANUARY.
TOON

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Message Attributes

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Sent Date: 25-Jan-1977 12:00:00 am
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